

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

<p>AMENDMENT/ RESPONSE</p>	Application No.	09/916,612
	Filing Date	July 27, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Dhirubai Patel
	Application Title:	Ring Laser Gyroscope Having Combined Electrode and Getter
	Group Art Unit	2875
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	Attorney Docket No.:	GCD00.30

CLAIM LISTING

1 (currently amended). An electrode and getter structure for a gas discharge device that includes a frame having a cavity therein that contains a gain medium and an electrode bore extending from a surface of the frame to the cavity, comprising:

- a metallization layer formed on the surface of the frame, the metallization layer including an electrode that is adjacent the electrode bore;
- a getter well sealed ~~to the metallization layer~~ around the electrode bore by the metallization layer; and
- a getter mounted in the getter well spaced apart from the frame.

3 (previously presented) The electrode and getter structure of claim 1 wherein the metallization layer includes an electrical contact arranged so that an electrical signal may be applied to the electrode.

4 (currently amended). The electrode and getter structure of claim 1 wherein the getter well comprises a ~~hollow glass cylinder having~~ a closed end and an open end sealed ~~mounted~~ to the metallization layer.

5. (Canceled)

6 (currently amended). An electrode and getter structure for a gas discharge device that includes a frame having a cavity therein that contains a gain medium and an electrode bore extending from a surface of the frame to the cavity, comprising:

- a metallization layer deposited formed on the surface of the frame, the metallization layer including:

a ring that extends around the electrode bore and is spaced apart therefrom;

an electrode formed in the metallization layer to extend inward in the ring to a location adjacent the electrode bore; and

an electrical contact in the metallization layer and arranged to extend away from the ring;

a getter well sealed to the frame by the metallization layer;

a spring mounted in the getter well such that elastic forces in the spring retain it in a selected position; and

a getter mounted in the getter well spaced apart from the frame and aligned with the electrode bore.

7 (currently amended). A method for forming an electrode and getter structure for a gas discharge device that includes a frame having a cavity therein that contains a gain medium and an electrode bore extending from a surface of the frame to the cavity, comprising the steps of:

forming a metallization layer on the surface of the frame, the metallization layer being formed to include an electrode that is adjacent the electrode bore;

sealing a getter well ~~to the metallization layer~~ around the electrode bore by the metallization layer; and

mounting a getter in the getter well spaced apart from the frame.

8 (previously presented). The method of claim 7 including the steps of forming the metallization layer to extend around the electrode bore; and

securing the getter well is to the metallization layer.

9. (previously presented). The method of claim 8 including the step of forming the metallization layer to include an electrical contact arranged so that an electrical signal may be applied to the electrode.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12 (currently amended). A method for forming a gas discharge device that includes a frame having a cavity therein that contains a gain medium and an electrode bore extending from a surface of the frame to the cavity, comprising:

forming a metallization layer as a ring that extends around the electrode bore and is spaced apart therefrom on the surface of the frame;

forming an electrode in the metallization layer that extends inward in the ring to a location adjacent the electrode bore; and

forming an electrical contact in the metallization layer extending away from the ring;

providing a getter well;

mounting a getter in the getter well ~~to a spring; and~~

~~mounting the spring in the getter well that elastic forces in the spring retain it in a selected position; and~~

sealing the getter well to frame by means of the metallization layer.